

# FLOOD: Runoff Higher Than Anticipated

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able to get cooperation. There isn't much else we can do."

Hugh McKellar, spokesman for the water users, said he has one idea about the reservoir and Ferguson another.

"There is information on both sides of this," McKellar said.

The group is not sure that once water is released from the reservoir that there will be enough to fill it up for use during dry summer months. McKellar said.

According to Bill Alder, head forecaster with the National Weather Service, with more water in the ground, northern Utah could be in for heavier runoff this spring than last and the forecast for the

next two months is for wetter than normal conditions.

But the determining factor in whether the runoff will stay with river channels and lake beds or push over its banks depends on weather patterns during the next 10 weeks, according to Alder and other weather specialists.

Alder said while March temperatures have been about normal, April and May should be cooler and wetter than normal.

"It's time to start getting some the snow off the mountains and the unusually low temperatures won't help," he said. But the biggest danger

for flooding is a sudden, rapid warming.

Alder said the Wasatch Front snowpack is up 20 percent to 40 percent from last year and Alta ski resort has reported 620 inches of snow since November, the largest five-month amount since 1944 when official record keeping began.

If Utah gets a week of temperatures in the 80s as it did at the end of May last year, the snowpack will come rushing down in torrents, testing the limits of the preventive measures government agencies have worked on the past year, he said.

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